

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 192

Introduced By: Harms, 48

Read first time: January 9, 2007

Committee: Education

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to postsecondary education; to amend section
2 85-1412, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006; to
3 adopt the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act; to
4 eliminate the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act;
5 to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original section; and
6 to outright repeal sections 85-2001, 85-2002, 85-2003,
7 85-2004, 85-2005, 85-2006, 85-2007, 85-2008, 85-2009, and
8 85-2010, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2006.

9 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 85-1412, Revised Statutes Cumulative
2 Supplement, 2006, is amended to read:

3 85-1412. The commission shall have the following additional
4 powers and duties:

5 (1) Conduct surveys and studies as may be necessary to
6 undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant to
7 section 85-1403 and request information from governing boards and
8 appropriate administrators of public institutions and other
9 governmental agencies for research projects. All public institutions
10 and governmental agencies receiving state funds shall comply with
11 reasonable requests for information under this subdivision. Public
12 institutions may comply with such requests pursuant to section
13 85-1417;

14 (2) Recommend to the Legislature and the Governor
15 legislation it deems necessary or appropriate to improve postsecondary
16 education in Nebraska and any other legislation it deems appropriate
17 to change the role and mission provisions in sections 85-917 to
18 85-966.01;

19 (3) Establish any advisory committees as may be necessary to
20 undertake the coordination function of the commission pursuant to
21 section 85-1403 or to solicit input from affected parties such as
22 students, faculty, governing boards, administrators of the public
23 institutions, administrators of the private nonprofit institutions of
24 postsecondary education and proprietary institutions in the state, and
25 community and business leaders regarding the coordination function of
26 the commission;

27 (4) Participate in or designate an employee or employees to

1 participate in any committee which may be created to prepare a
2 coordinated plan for the delivery of educational programs and services
3 in Nebraska through the telecommunications system;

4 (5) Seek a close liaison with the State Board of Education
5 and the State Department of Education in recognition of the need for
6 close coordination of activities between elementary and secondary
7 education and postsecondary education;

8 (6) Administer the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data
9 System or other information system or systems to provide the
10 commission with timely, comprehensive, and meaningful information
11 pertinent to the exercise of its duties. The information system shall
12 be designed to provide comparable data on each public institution. The
13 commission shall also administer the uniform information system
14 prescribed in sections 85-1421 to 85-1427 known as the Nebraska
15 Educational Data System. Public institutions shall supply the
16 appropriate data for the information system or systems required by the
17 commission;

18 (7) Administer the ~~Community Scholarship Foundation~~
19 Access College Early Scholarship Program Act and the Nebraska
20 Scholarship Act;

21 (8) Accept and administer loans, grants, and programs from
22 the federal or state government and from other sources, public and
23 private, for carrying out any of its functions, including the
24 administration of privately endowed scholarship programs. Such loans
25 and grants shall not be expended for any other purposes than those for
26 which the loans and grants were provided. The commission shall
27 determine eligibility for such loans, grants, and programs, and such

1 loans and grants shall not be expended unless approved by the
2 Governor;

3 (9) Consistent with section 85-1620, approve, in a timely
4 manner, new baccalaureate degree programs to be offered at private
5 postsecondary career schools as defined in section 85-1603. The
6 commission may charge a reasonable fee based on its administrative
7 costs for authorizations pursuant to this subdivision and section
8 85-1620. The commission shall report such action to the Commissioner
9 of Education;

10 (10) Pursuant to sections 85-1101 to 85-1104, authorize
11 out-of-state institutions of higher or postsecondary education to
12 offer courses or degree programs in this state;

13 (11) Pursuant to sections 85-1105 to 85-1111, approve or
14 disapprove petitions to establish new private colleges in this state;

15 (12) On or before December 1, 2000, and on or before
16 December 1 every two years thereafter, submit to the Legislature and
17 the Governor a report of its objectives and activities and any new
18 private colleges in Nebraska and the implementation of any
19 recommendations of the commission for the preceding two calendar
20 years;

21 (13) Provide staff support for interstate compacts on
22 postsecondary education; and

23 (14) Request inclusion of the commission in any existing
24 grant review process and information system.

25 Sec. 2. Sections 2 to 7 of this act shall be known and may
26 be cited as the Access College Early Scholarship Program Act.

27 Sec. 3. For purposes of the Access College Early

1 Scholarship Program Act:

2 (1) Commission means the Coordinating Commission for
3 Postsecondary Education;

4 (2) Extreme hardship means any event including fire,
5 illness, accident, or job loss that has recently resulted in a
6 significant financial difficulty for a high school student and his or
7 her family;

8 (3) Postsecondary educational institution means a two-year
9 or four-year college or university in Nebraska which is a member
10 institution of an accrediting body recognized by the United States
11 Department of Education; and

12 (4) Resident means a person meeting the residency
13 requirements of section 85-502.

14 Sec. 4. The Access College Early Scholarship Program is
15 established. The purpose of the program is to provide financial
16 assistance to low-income high school students who are taking courses
17 for credit at a postsecondary educational institution while still
18 enrolled in high school. The program shall be administered by the
19 commission.

20 Sec. 5. (1) A high school student is eligible for the
21 Access College Early Scholarship Program if such student or a member
22 of his or her immediate family is eligible to receive:

23 (a) Supplemental Security Income;

24 (b) Food stamps;

25 (c) Free or reduced-price lunches under United States
26 Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs;

27 (d) Aid to families with dependent children; or

1 (e) Assistance under the Special Supplemental Nutrition
2 Program for Women, Infants, and Children; or

3 (2) The student or family member has experienced an extreme
4 hardship as defined in section 3 of this act.

5 Sec. 6. (1) An applicant for the Access College Early
6 Scholarship Program shall complete an application form provided by the
7 commission and attach a billing statement from the postsecondary
8 educational institution and shall forward the form and statement to
9 his or her guidance counselor. The guidance counselor shall verify
10 the student's eligibility under the Access College Early Scholarship
11 Program Act and shall forward the information to the commission for
12 review.

13 (2) The commission shall review the application and verify
14 the student's eligibility under the act. The scholarship award shall
15 equal the tuition and fees accrued by the student from the
16 postsecondary educational institution. The commission shall forward
17 such amount directly to the postsecondary educational institution as
18 payment of such student's tuition and fees.

19 (3) The commission shall make such payments in the order
20 the applications are received by the commission until funds are
21 inadequate to fulfill any remaining scholarships.

22 (4) There is no limit on the number of scholarships a
23 student may receive under the act.

24 Sec. 7. The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and
25 regulations to carry out the Access College Early Scholarship Program
26 Act.

27 Sec. 8. Original section 85-1412, Revised Statutes

1 Cumulative Supplement, 2006, is repealed.

2 Sec. 9. The following sections are outright repealed:
3 Sections 85-2001, 85-2002, 85-2003, 85-2004, 85-2005, 85-2006,
4 85-2007, 85-2008, 85-2009, and 85-2010, Revised Statutes Cumulative
5 Supplement, 2006.